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TAGS: PREL PGOV UN UNMIK KDEM ENRG SENV TRGY VI LT
SUBJECT: LESOTHO: GOL INTERESTED IN KOSOVO QUESTION, WIREC
CONFERENCE

REF: A) STATE 1087; B) STATE 563

CLASSIFIED BY: Christopher M. Smith, P/DEP Officer, P/DEP,
Department of State.

REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

¶1. (U) This is an action request. See paragraph 3.

¶2. (C) On January 17, Poloff met with Ministry of Foreign Affairs Americas and Europe Desk Director Pitso Makosholo regarding the possibility of Lesotho's early recognition of Kosovo's independence and Secretary Rice's invitation for a delegation from Lesotho to attend the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference (WIREC). Mr. Makosholo suggested that the U.S. provide the GOL with a written brief on the Kosovo question and seemed generally receptive to U.S. views. Regarding WIREC, he stated that he would pass on the Secretary's invitation to Foreign Minister Tseko, who would likely consult with Minister of Natural Resources Moleleki. END SUMMARY.

Lesotho Wants More Info on Kosovo

¶3. (C) After Poloff presented talking points on Kosovo (REF A), Mr. Makosholo stated that the GOL would appreciate a written brief in order to properly consider the matter. (REQUEST: Post kindly asks for the assistance of EUR's Office of South and Central Europe in identifying a proper background and position paper for presentation to the Government of Lesotho, as much of the information presented in REF A is classified as confidential.) While appearing receptive to the suggestion that

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recognition could demonstrate Lesotho's willingness to promote peace far beyond its own borders, Makosholo also expressed concern that Lesotho's interest in Kosovo might be perceived as unusual and would raise questions in the international community.

WIREC: Invitation Presented

¶4. (U) Regarding the WIREC conference, Mr. Makosholo stated that he would pass Secretary Rice's invitation on the Foreign Minister Tseko, who would likely consult with Minister of Natural Resources Moleleki. He offered that renewable energy is of great interest to Lesotho, which is a producer of hydro-electricity and has a number of pilot solar-powered projects created by international donors. He promised to contact Poloff with any information concerning a potential delegation.

An Opening on Kosovo?

15. (C) COMMENT: As Lesotho's MFA does not appear well briefed on the Kosovo issue, presenting them with timely and persuasive information on the question would be advantageous. We appear to be the only party lobbying them on the issue. If Minister Moleleki does attend the WIREC conference next March, the proceeding would gain a highly colorful and engaged interlocutor from the mountain kingdom. END COMMENT.

NOLAN